



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS SENDS DRUG DEALERS TO FEDERAL PRISON

(Tyler, TX) Two armed drug dealers were sentenced to federal prison on Monday in the Eastern District of Texas under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

CHRISTOPHER JONES, 27, of Texarkana, was sentenced in Texarkana to 92 months in federal prison by United States District Judge David Folsom.

According to information presented in court, Texarkana Narcotics Unit officers executed a search warrant on June 30, 2004 at Jones' Texarkana, Texas residence. During the search, officers recovered approximately 19.68 kilograms of marijuana, an electronic scale and three handguns. Jones has three prior felony convictions for possession and delivery of marijuana.

On April 5, 2005, Jones pleaded guilty to being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

In a separate case, **CHESTER JOHNSON**, 50, of Greenville, Mississippi, was sentenced in Tyler to 151 months in federal prison by United States District Judge William M. Steger.

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PSN Sentencings

According to information presented in court, Johnson was stopped in Smith County on September 22, 2003, by a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper for traffic violations. During a search of the vehicle, the trooper discovered 160 grams of cocaine base, 1.2 kilograms of powder cocaine, and 2.2 kilograms of marijuana. A search of the roadway near the site of the stop revealed a Jennings .380 caliber pistol and a Cobra .38 caliber derringer.

Johnson pleaded guilty on March 5, 2005 to Possession with Intent to Distribute 'crack' Cocaine, powder Cocaine, and Marijuana.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, was pleased with the sentencings, "Project Safe Neighborhoods has become instrumental in removing armed drug dealers the streets. The stakes are higher when violators are armed and we will continue to aggressively prosecute drug dealers who carry or possess weapons".

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun law enforcement that targets gun crime and violent offenders in an effort to make our communities safer. Over the past four years, law enforcement across America increased federal gun crime prosecutions by 76%. Here in the Eastern District of Texas, gun grime prosecutions are up an impressive 93%. Assistant United States Attorney Jim Noble prosecuted

the cases.

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